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# Celebrating Navy Women

*Perseverance & Achievements*

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## Forward from Mrs. Linda Gilday

When we moved into Tingey House, our residence, in late fall of 2019, we decided to make the library into a room with a focus. It's a room next to the dining room, with good lighting, a fireplace, great colors and plenty of open wall space. We wanted to turn it into a more intimate official meeting spot for Mike. At an estate sale, I purchased a book about Women in Congress to add to our other books about women's achievements: a subtle way of recognizing women trailblazers who have made their mark in history.

While sitting in the room one day and thinking of how to expand on that idea, I said to Mike, "Hey, what if we make this a women in the Navy room!" I thought it would be a chance to show visitors that our Navy has some amazing women who have served. He said "Yes," and with such a great acronym - Women in the Navy - WIN, the idea took off!

This WIN project has two purposes: it is a way to honor those 'first' women - who have served with honor, humility, fortitude and sacrifice in uniform and in the civilian ranks; and secondly, to inspire men and women alike.

WIN history-makers and trailblazers from all parts of the Navy have been honored individually for years, but we didn't have a collective reference that pulled them together into one document/site/book/or display. Even the Pentagon doesn't have a full display of this type for Navy women....yet.

We worked with the Navy History and



Heritage Command to create this display and this e-book. Now, with the help of a group we're calling the 'WIN Founders Group,' we are considering additional ways to grow this project and mentor others. In this e-book, there are trailblazers who have served, who are serving -many who are the 'first' in some way. Don't let that intimidate you from offering up other names to include. If you know women who've contributed to the Navy- we want to know who they are! Send your recommendations via the U.S. Navy CNO social media platforms (linked below).

We know this is a small representation of Navy Women's accomplishments, but I know you will enjoy reading about them. We hope this will be an inspiration to all.

With Respect,

*Linda Gilday*

# Celebrating Navy Women: Perseverance & Achievements



Women have profoundly impacted our Navy for more than a century, since being allowed to join in 1917.

To honor those pioneers who have led the way, along with the more than 142,000 women who serve today on active duty, in the reserves and as Navy civilians, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday and Mrs. Linda Gilday, in coordination with Navy History and Heritage Command, created a display in their residence, Tingey House, as well as this e-book.

**Where additional information is available, the photos are hyperlinked to articles, videos, and oral histories (click the photo to access the files).**

While we know this is a small representation of the women who serve today and the millions who have served, it is our hope it sparks conversations that honor women who wear the cloth of this nation. As a Navy, we celebrate the many accomplishments that women have achieved through hard work, grit and determination.





### **Lt. Marie Lei Acuna**

Lt. Marie Lei Acuna is an active duty MH-60S Seahawk pilot who, during her very first deployment as part of the USS Ronald Reagan, Carrier Air Wing 5 team, rescued two aircrew who ejected in 2018 during a training flight.



**Aviation Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Annie Adams**  
**Lieutenant Junior Grade Sarah Black**  
**Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Aerial Lucky**  
**Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Dayna Williams**

Assigned to the “Ghostriders” of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 28, this group of women conducted MH-60S Seahawk operations aboard the Blue Ridge-class command and control ship USS Mount Whitney (LCC-20) during a successful deployment.



### **Command Master Chief Dee Allen**

Prior to retirement, Command Master Chief Allen was one of the most senior enlisted women in the Navy. She served as Command Master Chief of U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/U.S. 10th Fleet (FCC/C10F).





### **Rear Adm. Annie Andrews**

A Naval Officer from 1983 to 2015 and one of the first three African-American women to be named a Flag officer, Rear Adm. Andrews showcased excellent leadership throughout her impressive career. She served as a Senior Fellow in the CNO Strategic Studies Group, the director of Total Force Requirements Division, Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, and Commanding officer of U.S. Navy Recruiting Command.





### **Cmdr. Meghan Angermann**

Cmdr. Meghan Angermann is the Commanding Officer of Training Squadron 9 (VT-9) and the first woman to command a jet training squadron.



### **Master Chief Storekeeper Alicia Atken**

Master Chief Storekeeper Alicia Atken, senior enlisted advisor salvage ship USS Grapple, is seen here supervising a work party during the ship's 1988 operations. Master Chief Atken was a pre-commission, plank owner, and the first Command Master Chief of the USS Grapple at a time when few women were allowed to serve on ships.



### **Midshipman 1st Class Sydney Barber**

Midshipman 1st Class Sydney Barber is the first Black woman to serve as the U.S. Naval Academy's Brigade Commander, a position she assumed in 2021. Brigade commander is a semester-long position, and is the highest student leadership position, selected through an application and interview process by senior leadership and the commandant's staff. Barber, of Lake Forest, Illinois, is a mechanical engineering major, and is the 16th woman to serve as brigade commander in the 44 years since women have been allowed to attend the U.S. Naval Academy.





### **Kayla Barron**

Kayla Barron attended the United States Naval Academy, where she graduated in 2010 and then became one of the first women to become a submarine warfare officer. She served onboard USS Maine. Kayla Barron was selected by NASA to join the 2017 Astronaut Candidate Class. She reported for duty in August 2017 and having completed the initial astronaut candidate training is now eligible for a mission assignment. She is the fifth women who graduated from the Naval Academy selected as an astronaut candidate.





### **Cmdr. Elizabeth Barrett**

The highest ranking female naval officer in Vietnam and the first to hold command in a combat zone. From January 1972 to March 1973, Cmdr. Barrett served at Saigon as the Commanding Officer, Enlisted Personnel for the U.S. Naval Advisory Group, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.



**Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt**

Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt will be the first woman to command a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. She is scheduled to assume command of USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) in the summer of 2021. Bauernschmidt was also the first woman to serve as the executive officer aboard an aircraft carrier, a position she held from September 2016 to January 2019.



### **Fleet Master Chief April D. Beldo**

A woman of many firsts, Fleet Master Chief Beldo became the first female Command Master Chief (CMC) of Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. in 2006, the first African-American female CMC to be assigned to an aircraft carrier (USS Carl Vinson [CVN-70]) in 2009, the first female and first African-American Force Master Chief (FORCM) for Naval Education and Training Command in 2012, and the first female Manpower, Personnel, Training, and Education (MPT&E) Fleet Master Chief, in 2017.



### **Rev. Dianna Pohlman Bell**

Upon joining the Navy in 1973, Rev. Bell became the Department of Defense's first female military chaplain. She served from 1973 to 1976.





### **Juliet Beyler**

Ms. Juliet Beyler enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1984 and served as a Korean cryptologic linguist and intelligence analyst for ten years before receiving her commission as one of the Marine Corps' first female combat engineer officers. Over the course of her Marine Corps career, she completed numerous deployments around the world to locations such as Thailand, Russia, Haiti, the Philippines, and the Balkans. She commanded three times and served two combat tours in Iraq as a commanding officer and battalion operations officer. Before re-joining the Department of Defense after a 23-year military career, Ms. Beyler served as a Senior Policy Advisor in the office of U.S. Senator Jim Webb. At OSD, she led the Department's five-year effort to open all military positions to women. She currently serves as the Executive Director for U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa as an SES.



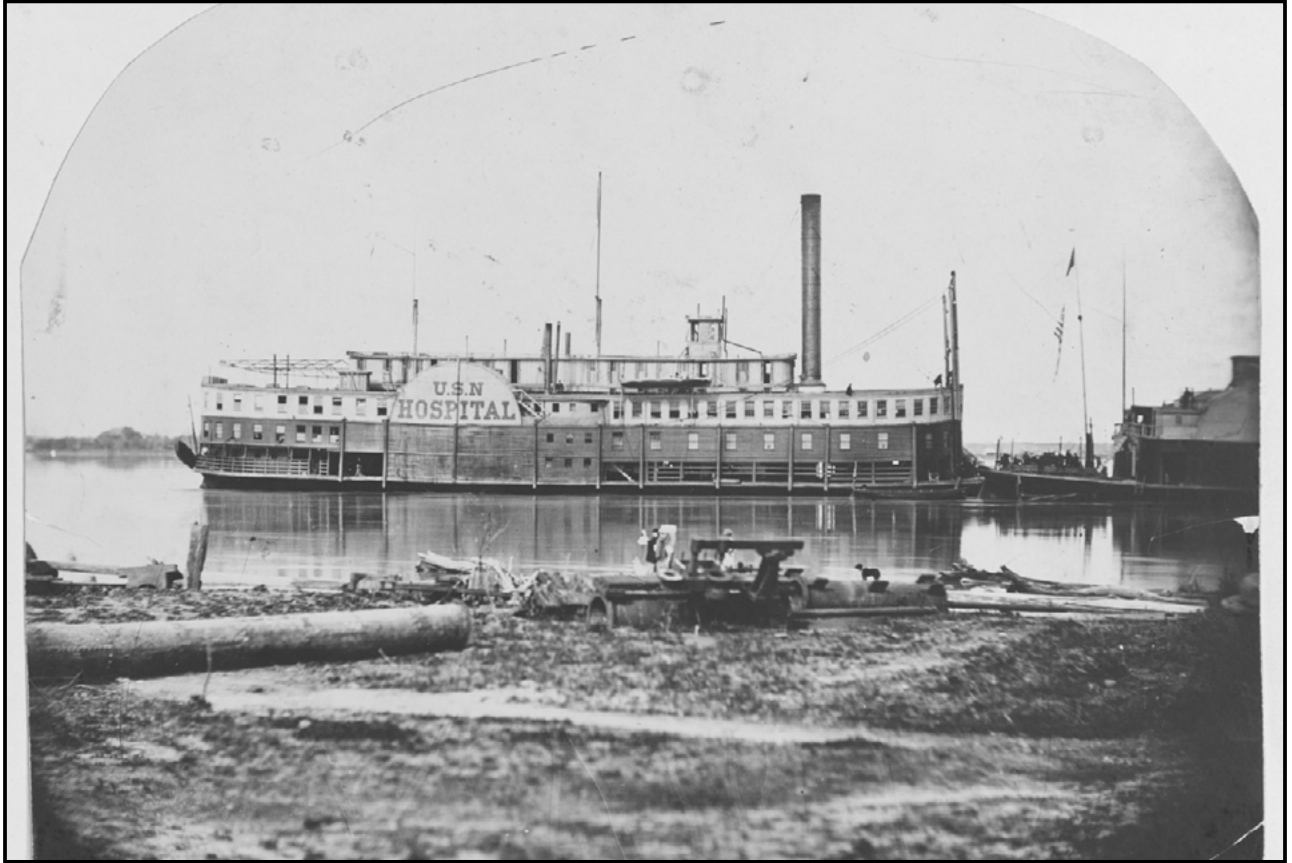
**Rear Adm. Heidi Berg**

Rear Adm. Heidi Berg is a 1991 graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy who commissioned as a Cryptologist. Fluent in Russian and Arabic, Berg received a Master of Philosophy in Modern Middle Eastern Studies and Arabic from St. Antony's College, Oxford University, UK. She has served on airborne, surface and subsurface platforms, commanded at multiple levels, supported US and partner space capabilities, and served in combat zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. She is one of a handful of women Cryptologists to be selected as a flag officer. Her first Flag assignment is as the Director of Intelligence (J2), U.S. Africa Command.



**Rear Adm. Linda Bird**

Rear Adm. Linda J. Bird, SC, USN, was the first woman in the United States Navy Supply Corps promoted to flag rank.



### **Ann Bradford**

After escaping from slavery in 1863, Ann Bradford served on board the hospital ship USS Red Rover as a nurse. Officially rated as a “first-class boy,” she successfully applied for and received a pension from the Navy in 1890 for her military service.





### **Vice Adm. Robin Braun**

Vice Adm. Robin Braun was the first female to command the United States Navy Reserve, taking command in August 2012.

She was also the first female to command any services' Reserve Component.



### **Cmdr. Becky Calder**

Cmdr. Becky Calder, a 1998 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, played varsity basketball and was the first woman to have her varsity number retired. She served as an F/A-18 Hornet Pilot and became the first woman to graduate from the Navy's Strike Fighter Weapons School.



### **Lt. Cmdr. Ashley Carline**

Lt. Cmdr. Ashley Carline served as the Chief of Naval Operation's Flag Aide for two years from September 2018 – October 2020. She is the first Black female to serve as Aide-de-Camp for two different Chiefs of Naval Operation.



### **Capt. Elaine Collins**

Capt. Elaine Collins is the Commander, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 9. A 1996 NROTC Washington State University graduate, Collins has served in multiple roles at sea, including aboard USS Momsen as the Commanding Officer. Collins has deployed to the Arabian Gulf in support of UN Security Council Resolutions, Operations Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. She has also deployed to 7th Fleet in support of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training, and to 6th Fleet in support of Standing NATO Maritime Group Two and Operation Active Endeavor.





**Lt. j.g. Amber Cowan (right)**  
**Lt. j.g. Jennifer Noonan (center)**

Lt. j.g. Amber Cowan and Lt. j.g. Jennifer Noonan (USS Maine [SSBN-741], Blue Crew) received their gold dolphin pins on December 5, 2012. They, along with Lt. j.g. Marquette Leveque (USS Wyoming [SSBN-742], Gold Crew) were the first female unrestricted line officers to qualify as submarine warfare officers.



### **Rear Adm. (Sel) Jennifer Couture**

Rear Adm. (Sel) Jennifer Couture was recently selected for promotion to Rear Admiral. She currently serves as Director, Commander's Action Group, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic. Couture previously commanded Destroyer Squadron 28 from November 2018-February 2020, and she previously commanded the USS Kauffman (FFG-59). She holds degrees from George Washington University, Old Dominion University and is a Doctoral Student at Northeastern University. Couture is a recognized leader in the Surface Warfare community and an inspiration to many.



### **Lt. Susan Ahn Cuddy**

In 1942, Lt. Cuddy became the first female Asian-American to serve in the Navy and also its first female gunnery officer. During WWII, she served as an instructor in both combat air tactics and the use of the .50 caliber machine gun. She subsequently worked at U.S. Naval Intelligence as a code breaker and at the National Security Agency during the Cold War. Pictured here with her brothers, who also served in the military.





### **Cmdr. Kim DaCosta-Azar**

Cmdr. Kim DaCosta-Azar was the third Skipper, and first woman to be the commanding officer of the Navy's only unmanned squadron - VUP19. She won the Joy Bright Hancock award in 2020 for her leadership, specifically for her initiatives to retain aviators throughout pregnancy and parenthood. She created a pregnancy and parenthood program recognizing concerns from women in her command about remaining competitive in their careers while balancing family. She also removed barriers working with Naval Air Forces and to change established instructions to allow pregnant women to continue flying (unmanned) into their third trimester.





**Capt. Sue S. Dauser**

The fifth Superintendent of Navy Nurse Corps (1939-1945), Capt. Dauser became the first female Captain in the U.S. Navy's history in December 1942. It was her steady hand that guided the Navy Nurse Corps through WWII.



**Rear Adm. Yvette Davids (left)**  
**Capt. Shanti Sethi**  
**Cmdr. Teresa Elders**

All three women served on USS Higgins (DDG 76) under then-Commanding Officer Cmdr. Mike Gilday. Davids served as Executive Officer, Sethi as Combat Systems Officer, and Elders as Operations officer.



### **Vice Adm. Nanette DeRenzi**

Vice Adm. Nanette DeRenzi commissioned through the Judge Advocate Corps Student Program and graduated from the Temple University School of Law in 1986. She became the 42nd Judge Advocate General (JAG) of the Navy in 2012. She was the first, and only, woman to hold that position to date.



**Master Chief Yeoman Anna Der-Vartanian**

The Navy's first female Master Chief Petty Officer. In 1959, Master Chief Der-Vartanian became the first woman in the U.S. Armed Forces to be promoted to an E-9 rank.





### **Fleet Master Chief Jackie DiRosa**

Fleet Master Chief Jacqueline DiRosa became the first woman to be promoted to fleet master chief in 2006. Having been appointed force master chief of Navy Medicine and director of the Hospital Corps in 2002, she is the first woman in U.S. Navy history selected for both Force and Fleet Master Chief.



### **Steffanie Easter**

Served as Director, Navy Staff Office of the Chief of Naval Operations from January 2018 to December 2019. Mrs. Easter was the first civilian to hold that position, after a career with more than three decades of federal service experience in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army.



### **Machinist Mate 2nd Class Logan English**

Machinist Mate 2nd Class Logan English assigned to the USS Harpers Ferry (LSD-49), rests after combatting a fire onboard USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6) on July 14, 2020. She, along with Sailors from multiple commands and the Federal San Diego Firefighters, engaged in a four-day firefighting effort to extinguish the fire.



### **Lt. Cmdr. Ashley Faires**

Lt. Cmdr. Ashley Faires piloted the first all-female combat mission of an E-2C aircraft for the U.S. Navy. In 2012, Ashley and four crew members completed a multiple-hour mission of tactical combat management, airborne advanced warning, and command and control services over Afghanistan. She is the recipient of the 2016 Purdue Engineering Alumni Association Young Engineering Alumnus Award.





### **Female Engagement Teams**

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Amanda Little, Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah Female Engagement Team member, sits with fellow FET members following the conclusion of an all-women's shura conducted in the Shib Koh District in Farah Province, Afghanistan, July 10, 2010. Little is just one of many Navy women who have served as part of Female Engagement Teams in Iraq and Afghanistan. These teams undertook gender-suited tasks to engage with local women and adolescents in situations where male service members' involvement would have been culturally inappropriate.



### **First All-Female Seabee Construction Team**

Assigned in late 2011 to Helmand Province, Afghanistan, this was the first all-female Seabee construction team (as part of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOUR). They built an operations center, gym, and two B-huts a week ahead of schedule.



The first enlisted women in the Navy. Recruited to serve for the duration of WWI in order to free up male personnel for duty at sea, nearly 11,000 women were in uniform by Armistice Day (November 11, 1918). Although they were subsequently discharged following the war's end, they had nonetheless demonstrated that women were more than capable of serving in the Navy, paving the way for the establishment of the WAVES in WWII and the integration of women into the regular Navy in 1948.





### **First three Surface Warfare Officer (Nuclear) black women in afloat command at the same time**

Cmdr. Kimberly Jones, Commanding Officer of USS Tortuga (LSD-46), Cmdr. Kathryn Wijnaldum, Commanding Officer of USS Oak Hill (LSD-51), and Cmdr. LaDonna Simpson, Commanding Officer of USS Carter Hall (LSD-50) became the first three black women Surface Warfare Officers (Nuclear) to be in command at the same time.





**Lt. j.g. Barbara Allen, Ens. Jane M. Skiles, Lt. j.g. Judith A. Neuffler, and Ens. Kathleen L. McNary**

The first women assigned to flight instruction at Naval Air Station Pensacola in March 1973. Lt. j.g. Allen subsequently became the first woman to receive her Wings of Gold.



### **Vice Adm. Lisa Franchetti**

Vice Adm. Lisa Franchetti earned her commission in 1985 through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Program at Northwestern University. She was promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral in 2018 and commanded the U.S. 6th Fleet, also serving as the deputy commander for U.S. Naval Forces Europe / Africa and Commander, Striking and Support Forces NATO. Additionally, Vice Adm. Franchetti has served as commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea; commander Carrier Strike Group 9; commander, Carrier Strike Group 15; and chief of staff, Joint Staff, J-5, Strategy, Plans and Policy, and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfighting Development, N7. She assumed duties as director for Strategy, Plans and Policy (J-5), Joint Staff in October of 2020.



### **CNO-Directed CMC Susan (Sanson) Fritz**

CNO-Directed Command Master Chief Fritz served as Command Master Chief of VS-22 (S-3 Squadron) on board USS Eisenhower, the first combatant ship to have female crewmembers. Master Chief Fritz subsequently served as CNO-Directed Command Master Chief (CNOCM) for Naval District Washington.



### **Rear Adm. Katherine L. Gregory**

The first woman to serve as the XO and CO of an active duty Seabee battalion, Rear Adm. Gregory subsequently became the Civil Engineer Corps' (CEC) first female flag officer in 2009 and the first female Chief of the CEC, where she served from 2012-2015.





### **Petty Officer 3rd Class Peggy Sue Griffith**

One of over 60 women assigned to USS Sanctuary in 1972 (AH-17) as part of a pilot program to evaluate the possibility of women serving on board ships, Petty Officer 3rd Class Peggy Sue Griffith holds the distinction of being the first enlisted woman to report for duty.



### **Capt. Joy Bright Hancock**

Pictured here at center, Capt. Hancock served as a Yeoman (F) during WWI, worked at the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics during the interwar period, and was commissioned as an officer in the WAVES during WWII. As Director of the WAVES, she was instrumental in crafting and securing passage of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in 1948, which allowed women to serve as permanent, regular members of the U.S. armed forces. She subsequently became one of the first female officers sworn into the regular Navy on October 15, 1948.



### **Capt. Kathryn P. Hire**

Capt. Kathryn P. Hire, a 1981 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, served as a Naval Flight Officer and became the first woman in the military to be assigned to a combat aircrew. Selected for astronaut training by NASA in 1994, she flew aboard two space shuttle missions. She served in the Navy a total of 35 years and achieved the rank of Navy Captain. Hire logged more than 3,400 flight hours in various aircraft, and more than 711 hours in space.





### **Rear Adm. Grace Murray Hopper**

A computer science pioneer, Rear Adm. Hopper oversaw the development of the first compiler and the first programming language to use word commands in the 1950s. Recalled to active duty multiple times after she reached the mandatory retirement age in 1966, she retired as a Rear Admiral at the age of 79, making her one of the oldest active-duty officers to ever serve.





### **Adm. Michelle Howard**

The first woman promoted to the rank of four-star admiral and the first African-American woman to command a U.S. Navy ship (USS Rushmore [LSD-47]), Adm. Howard served as Vice Chief of Naval Operations from 2014 to 2016 and Commander of both

United States Naval Forces Europe – Naval Forces Africa and Allied Joint Forces Command Naples (NATO) from 2016 to 2017.



### **Lt. Cmdr. Kyleigh Hupfl**

With a Doctorate of Pharmacy from Rutgers University and an MBA in Materiel Logistics Support from the Naval Post Graduate School, Lt. Cmdr. Hupfl served the Navy and nation as part of the joint national response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She provided pharmacy expertise during the initial stand-up of White House and FEMA task forces as well as in direct pharmaceutical logistics planning and execution support to USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy while assigned to DLA Troop Support.



**Hospital Apprentices 2nd Class Ruth C. Isaacs,  
Katherine Horton, and Inez Patterson**

On March 2, 1945, these pioneering women became the first African-American Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) to enter Hospital Corps School at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.



### **Cmdr. Darlene Iskra**

Upon assuming command of USS Opportune (ARS-41) on December 27, 1990, Cmdr. Iskra became the first female commanding officer of a U.S. Navy ship.

She served in the U.S. Navy for 21 years.





**Vice Adm. Mary Jackson**

Vice Adm. Mary Jackson, a 1988 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, served in the U.S Navy for 32 years until her retirement in May 2020. A career surface warfare officer, Jackson served on ships in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets and deployed operations to the Atlantic, Caribbean, Persian Gulf, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Western Pacific areas of operation. She also served as the 6th Commander, Navy Installations Command before her retirement in 2020, where she led the Navy's shore enterprise comprised of more than 53,000 personnel at 10 Navy Regions and 71 installations around the world.



### **Constructionman Camella Jones**

Constructionman Camella Jones was the first enlisted woman to serve in a naval construction battalion and the first to qualify as a heavy equipment operator. She joined the ranks of the Seabees in November 1972.



### **Rear Adm. Sara Joyner**

Rear Adm. Sara Joyner was the first woman to command an F/A-18 squadron and the first to command a Carrier Air Wing. A 1989 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, she has made several extended deployments in support of Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Married to a former Strike Fighter pilot and Tactics Instructor and as a mother of two children she provides inspiration and mentorship regarding managing dual military careers with a family. She is currently the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs.



### **Senior Chief Shannon Kent**

A specialist in cryptologic warfare and fluent in seven languages, Senior Chief Kent served multiple tours in Iraq, participating in numerous special operations that contributed to the capture of hundreds of enemy insurgents. She not only paved the way for greater inclusion of women in Special Operations Forces, but was also one of the first women to pass the Naval Special Warfare Direct Support Course. Kent was killed in action in Syria on Jan. 16, 2019, and posthumously promoted to senior chief petty officer.





**Rear Adm. Margaret Kibben**

Rear Adm. Margaret Kibben served as the Chief of Chaplain of the U.S. Marine Corps, the Chief of Chaplain of the United States Navy from 2014 – 2018, and now serves as the chaplain of the United States House of Representatives. She is the first woman to hold each position.



### **Rear Adm. Margaret “Peg” Deluca Klein**

Rear Adm. “Peg” Klein, a Naval Academy graduate, served as a naval officer for 35 years. During her career, she served as the Secretary of Defense’s Advisor for Military Professionalism, Chief of Staff for U.S. Cyber Command and as director of operations for the Navy’s Network Warfare Command. In 2011, she commanded an American military force of five ships, 30 aircraft and over 3,300 Sailors and Marines in combat operations in the Mediterranean Sea. Klein served as the 82nd Commandant of Midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy-the first woman to do so- and was responsible for 4,400 Navy and Marine Corps officer candidates. Klein also commanded an aviation squadron and wing. She now serves as a Dean at the Naval War College.



### **Lt. j.g. Laura Krueger**

Lt. j.g. Laura “Bambi” Krueger, a Naval Flight Officer of an E/A-6B, was stationed with Electronic Attack Squadron 141 aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) in 2003 while it was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During a night strike as the Enemy Air Defense Suppression lead, Lt. j.g. Krueger and her team demonstrated extraordinary valor and expertise in the face of heavy enemy fire, and she was awarded an Air medal for her skillful airmanship, steadfast aggressiveness, and exemplary devotion to duty in the face of hazardous flying conditions.





### **Command Master Chief Beth Lambert**

In 1979, Command Master Chief Lambert became the first woman to be designated an Aviation Structural Mechanic (Structures). She went on to become the first woman to be selected as the U.S. Navy

Shore Sailor of the Year in 1988, among the first women to be stationed on board an aircraft carrier (USS Dwight D. Eisenhower [CVN-69]) in 1994 and, ultimately, the first female Command Master Chief of an aircraft carrier when she was selected to serve on board the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) in 2003.





### **Command Master Chief Shay Craft Langejans**

The first woman fire controlman to reach the rank of Master Chief and one of a handful of women to serve as CMC of a nuclear-powered aircraft. In 2015, she received the Master Chief Anna Der-Vartanian Leadership Award, which is awarded every year to enlisted personnel who foster a positive work environment while reinforcing and furthering the integration of women into the Navy.



### **Capt. Tamara Lawrence**

Capt. Tamara Lawrence graduated from Duke University and commissioned in the Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer before laterally transferring to become a Public Affairs Officer. During her 20+ year career, Capt. Lawrence, most notably served as the Secretary of the Navy Public Affairs Officer, and Naval Special Warfare Public Affairs Officer. Wife of Surface Warfare Officer and mother of three, and serves as an inspiration to many. She has been serving as the Public Affairs Officer for Naval Forces Europe-Naval Forces Africa since 2020.



### **Capt. Wendy Lawrence**

A Navy helicopter pilot with 11 years of service, and NASA astronaut, Capt. Lawrence became the first female U.S. Naval Academy graduate to go into space in 1995.



### **Yeoman Helene Lipman**

Yeoman Helene Lipman served in the Navy from 1944-1946 during World War II. She said, “I joined for two reasons. Patriotism. It was World War II going on, and I really wanted to help.” Yeoman Lipman was stationed in Jacksonville, Florida. “We were the pioneers,” she said. “Before, no women were allowed in the Navy, except for nurses. We weren’t allowed to leave the United States proper, so I felt we didn’t do as much as the men. We did what we could.”





**Susan Morrissey Livingstone**

Having served as Acting Secretary of the Navy from January to February 2003, Secretary Livingstone is the first woman to hold this position.



### **Rear Adm. Deborah A. Loewer**

Among the first women officers to be selected for shipboard duty, Rear Adm. Loewer attended the Surface Warfare Basic Course in 1979, graduating first in her class. She went on to become the first warfare qualified woman to attain flag rank in 2003, and served as Director of the White House Situation Room during the events of September 11, 2001, and the launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



### **Rep. Elaine Luria**

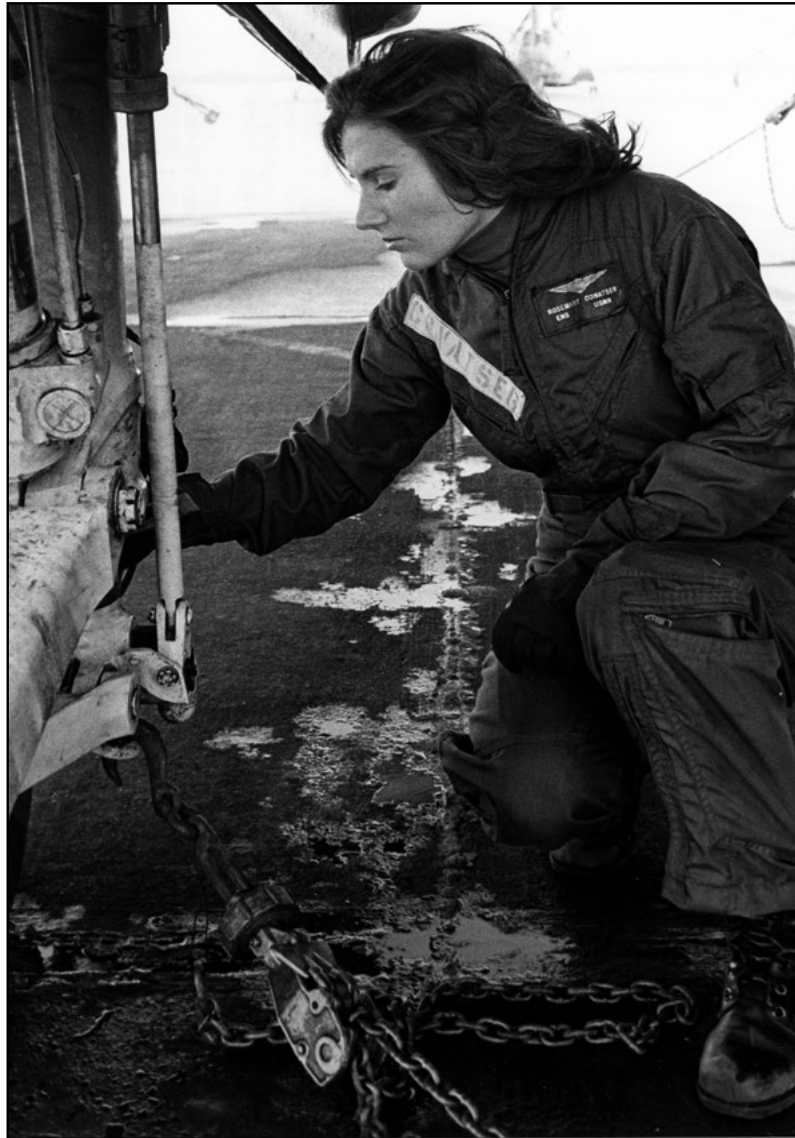
Representative Elaine Luria (V.A.) is a retired Navy Commander. She attended the United States Naval Academy and served as a Surface Warfare Officer. She was elected to Congress in 2018, and currently serves on the House Armed Services Committee and the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs.



### **Ens. Kathleen Lux**

After entering the U.S. Naval Reserve on November 28, 1942, Ens. Lux became the first female officer in the Civil Engineer Corps.





### **Capt. Rosemary Mariner**

Capt. Mariner was not only among the first female aviators to earn her wings in 1974, but also one of the first female Navy jet pilots, flying both the Douglas A-4C Skyhawk and the LTV A7E Corsair II. She also held the distinction of being the first woman to command an operational squadron, leading VAQ-34 during Operation Desert Storm.



### **Force Master Chief Laura Martinez**

Over 32 years of active service, Master Chief Laura Martinez held command leadership positions including Command Master Chief of Field Medical Training Battalion-East, National Capitol Area/ National Naval Medical Center, and 2nd Marine Logistics Group. In 2007, Martinez was selected as the 12th Force Master Chief of the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. Martinez holds the distinction as the first African-American to serve in this role.



### **Capt. Mildred McAfee**

The first Director of the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) (1942-1945), Capt. McAfee was also the first female commissioned officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve.



### **Rear Adm. Fran McKee**

Among the first women selected to attend the Naval War College in 1969, Rear Adm. McKee subsequently became the first woman line officer to attain flag rank on June 1, 1976.





### **Command Master Chief Samira McBride**

Master Chief Samira McBride became the first woman to be awarded the Del Black Leadership award in 2020 for her unwavering dedication to mission success and the resiliency and mentorship of all Sailors aboard her ship, USS Gonzalez.



**Janie L. Mines**

Janie Mines was the first African American woman to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy. She served as a supply officer and held numerous positions throughout her naval career, including as a senior advisor to the Secretary of the Navy. She is also a member of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services. Mines left the Navy to earn a Master's of Business Administration from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has held positions in management in several corporations, including Procter & Gamble and Hershey Foods, and was Senior Vice President of Strategic Sourcing at Bank of America.



Members of NAS Oceana squadrons conducted the first all-female “Missing Man Formation” during a flyover on February 2, 2019 to honor the life and memory of naval aviation pioneer, Capt. Rosemary Mariner. Pictured in the back row (left to right) are [Lt. Christy Talisse](#), [Lt. Emily Rixey](#), [Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Hesling](#), [Lt. Kelly Harris](#), [Lt. Amanda Lee](#). Sitting in the front row are Lt. Cmdr. Danielle Thiriot, [Cmdr. Stacy Uttecht](#), [Cmdr. Leslie Mintz](#), and [Lt. Cmdr. Paige Blok](#).



### **Kathryn Murphy**

The senior scientific technical manager for software engineering at the Naval Warfare Information Center (NIWC) Atlantic, Ms. Murphy was named the 2019 Women in Defense (WID) Palmetto Chapter's "Female Executive of the Year."





### **Lt. j.g. Judith Neuffer**

One of the first six women to qualify as a naval aviator and, as of 2020, a civilian manager at NASA. After earning her Wings of Gold and later in her career, then-Capt. Neuffer joined VW-4 ("The Hurricane Hunters") and became the first female naval aviator to fly through the eye of a hurricane.



### **Vice Adm. Nancy Norton**

Vice Adm. Nancy Norton commissioned in 1987 through the Navy Officer Candidate School and recently retired from the Navy as a Vice Admiral. She served as the Defense Information Systems Agency's (DISA) first-ever female director, and was only the second Navy flag officer to serve in that role. She served as a fellow on Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Strategic Studies Group XXXII and is a recipient of a Navy League Award, Young AFCEAN Award, Copernicus Award and the National Security Agency's Frank B. Rowlett Award for personal achievement in Information Security.



### **Petty Officer 3rd Class Yona Owens**

Enlisting in the Navy in 1973, Petty Officer 3rd Class Owens was instrumental in securing the right for women to serve on board ships. In 1976, she launched a class-action suit (*Owens v. Brown*) against the Navy, arguing that regulations prohibiting women from serving on board ships was unconstitutional. The court ultimately ruled in her favor on July 27, 1978, and by autumn of that same year, the law was amended to allow women to serve at sea.



### **Rear Adm. Kathleen Paige**

Rear Adm. Kathleen Paige commissioned in the Navy in 1971, was designated Engineering Duty Officer in 1981, and became the first woman promoted to Flag Officer in the Engineering Duty Officer community in 1996. While attending the Engineering Duty Officer Basic Course, she was awarded the Vice Adm. Bryan Award for academic excellence. In July 2001, she became the Missile Defense Agency's first Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) System Technical Director, and in 2003, she became the Program Director, Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD), the sea-based element of the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) under development by the Missile Defense Agency (MDA). Rear Adm. Paige's grandmother, Mary Tobin, was a chief yeoman in World War II.





### **Lt. j.g. Harriet Ida Pickens (left) and Ens. Frances Wills**

On December 22, 1944, Lt. j.g. Pickens and Ens. Wills became the first African-American women to be commissioned as officers in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES).



### **Capt. Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper**

Capt. Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper was a Naval Salvage Officer and former NASA astronaut. Her major salvage projects include de-stranding the tanker Exxon Houston off the coast of Barbers Point, on the island of Oahu, and developing the plan for the Peruvian Navy salvage of the Peruvian submarine Pacocha.

She has flown on two Space Shuttle missions, STS-115 and STS-126, during which she completed five spacewalks totaling 33 hours and 42 minutes.



### **Lt. j.g. Barbara Allen Rainey**

Upon earning her wings on February 22, 1974, Lt. j.g. Rainey became the first qualified female naval aviator. She subsequently became the first female naval aviator to qualify as a jet pilot. Tragically, she died in the line of duty July 13, 1982 while serving our nation as a flight instructor for VT-3 at Naval Air Station Whiting Field.



### **Lt. Cmdr. Brenda “Raven” Robinson**

The first African-American female naval aviator, Lt. Cmdr. Robinson earned her Wings of Gold on June 6, 1980. In 1978, Robinson was one of 10 women in the nation chosen to go into the Navy’s flight program, one of three to graduate from her class and the 42nd to graduate in U.S. history. In 2002, Brenda retired from the Naval Reserves as a Lieutenant Commander.





### **Ens. Christa Robison**

A student naval aviator assigned to Training Air Wing 4, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Ens. Robison stands in front of a Beechcraft T-6B Texan II aircraft March 4, 2020.



### **Chief Culinary Specialist Dominique Saavedra**

The first enlisted woman to become a fully-qualified submariner, Chief Culinary Specialist Saavedra earned her qualifications while embarked aboard USS Ohio (SSGN-726) and received her silver dolphin pin August 2, 2016, just prior to deploying aboard USS Michigan (SSGN-727).



### **Cmdr. Mary Sears**

Comissioned in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) in 1943, Cmdr. Sears served as the head of the Navy Hydrographic Office's new Oceanographic Unit where her research proved critical to the survivability of submarines. Following the war she was appointed the first officer-in-charge of the newly established Divison of Oceanography. She transferred to the reserves in 1947, and retired as a commander in 1963. She was a member of nine scientific and honorary societies and was a longtime member of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Instutition (WHOI).



**Capt. Katie Sheldon**

Capt. Katie Sheldon has served on active and reserve duty since she graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1999. Chosen as the Navy's Female Athlete of the Year 2001, she was part of the All Armed Forces Volleyball team that won the gold medal at the International Military Sports Council world championships, where she was named MVP. During her Navy career, she deployed multiple times as a Surface Warfare Officer in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and transitioned to the Reserves where she has commanded at every level. Her husband, a Surface Warfare commanding officer, believes the most impactful thing she has done has done is supporting his career for more than 21 years, encompassing 17 moves, 7 deployments (3 CO ship tours) while raising their three children.





### **Rep. Mikie Sherrill**

Representative Mikie Sherrill (N.J.) attended the United States Naval Academy and served nearly a decade in the Navy as a helicopter pilot. She was elected to Congress in 2018, and currently serves on the House Armed Services Committee and the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.



### **Vice Adm. Michelle Skubic**

Vice Adm. Michelle Skubic is a 1988 California State University graduate who became the first woman in the history of the Supply Corps to be selected for Vice Admiral in 2020. She currently serves as the Director of Defense Logistics Agency, and was previously the 48th Chief of the Supply Corps. She was the first female Chief of Supply Corps and first female Director of DLA.



### **Senior Chief Jackey Smith**

Senior Chief Jackie Smith is a breast cancer survivor, and was selected in 2021 to be a Command Senior Chief. As a leader, she has high standards for her Sailors and helps them achieve them. Her peers say she is compassionate and loyal; and that she believes in speaking truth to power, taking advantage of any opportunity to advocate for others.



**Cmdr. Sara Stires**

While serving as the Radar Intercept Officer of an F-14B Tomcat Aircraft in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, then-Lt. j.g. Sara Stires became the first (and only) woman in the U.S. Navy to be awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for her heroic actions. After serving nine years as a Naval Aviator, Cmdr. Stires now serves as a Navy Oral Surgeon at the U.S. Naval Academy and is the first Dental Officer in school history to run Brigade Medical.





### **Dr. Kathy Sullivan**

A retired member of the U.S. Naval Reserve, Capt. Sullivan holds the distinctions of being both the first woman to walk in space (1984) and the first to dive to Challenger Deep in the Marianas Trench, the deepest point in the world's oceans (2020).



### **Lt. j.g. Madeline Swegle**

Upon earning her Wings of Gold on July 31, 2020, Lt. j.g. Swegle became the Navy's first-known Black female tactical air pilot.



### **Lt. Victoria Thornton**

Lt. Victoria Thornton is a Navy Nurse who currently serves as a Department Head of the only integrated DoD and VA facility in the country at the Capt. James A Lovell Federal Health Care Center in North Chicago, Illinois. Instrumental in planning and operations for the intensive care unit's response to COVID-19, she has actively deployed ICU nurses, including herself, to assist in FEMA efforts for pandemic relief. Thornton has contributed to the Navy in lasting ways at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and also served as the only critical care nurse at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa. While there, she developed a 10-week sustainable trauma training curriculum program for reserve corpsmen and medical staff.



### **Capt. Kathy Manley Thorp**

After losing her husband, Navy Capt. Owen Thorp, to cancer in 2017, Capt. Kathy Manley Thorp was part of a group of military spouses whose persistence ended the “widow’s tax,” a legal offset that cost young military widows thousands of dollars annually.

Capt. Thorp served as a Navy Nurse for 37 years.





**Vice Adm. Jan Tighe**

Vice Adm. Jan Tighe was the first woman selected as the Commander, U.S. Fleet Cyber Command, U.S. 10th Fleet. She was also the first woman to command a numbered fleet, and the first woman Information Warfare Officer promoted to flag rank. She is a 1984 graduate of the United States Naval Academy.



### **Hull Technician 3rd Class Donna Tobias**

Hull Technician (DV) Tobias became the first female diver in 1975. She asked her recruiter about becoming a diver when she enlisted in the Navy in March 1974, and was told “no way, women can’t get in.” Undeterred, she chose hull technician as her rating because she liked the physical labor and knew it would teach her a useful skill. While she worked as a shipfitter, Tobias undertook the lengthy process of acquiring a dive school waiver that would allow her to circumvent the gender restriction then in place. She served for eight years.



### **The Twelve Anchors**

Navy nurses who were captured by the Japanese at the fall of Manila in 1942. Initially serving in the infirmary at a prison camp in Santo Tomas, they voluntarily transferred to the prison camp at Los Baños, despite its notoriously poor conditions. They were liberated from captivity in February 1945.



### **Vice Adm. Nora Tyson**

Vice Adm. Nora Tyson was commissioned into the Navy in December 1979, and became the first woman to command a carrier strike group in 2010. She embarked with USS George H W Bush (CVN-77) in the Mediterranean on its maiden deployment in support of operations in both 6th and 5th Fleets. Vice Adm. Tyson had many firsts throughout her career: she was the first woman to command the forward-deployed Singapore-based Task Force 73; the first woman to command a battle fleet and the first woman to serve as Commander, 3rd Fleet (Eastern Pacific).

In September 2017, she retired with the rank of Vice Admiral after 38 years of service.





### **U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1980**

The first 55 women to ever graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy. Since 1980, more than 4,600 women have graduated from the Naval Academy and have gone on to excel in their military careers and beyond.



### **USS Gerald R. Ford “Iron Nine”**

USS Gerald R. Ford’s (CVN 78) bridge watch team was comprised of an all-female Boatswain’s crew during the ship’s 12th independent steaming event in September 2020. This was the first time in Ford’s history that all the deck department Sailors assigned to bridge watch teams have been female. The nine female Sailors included on these landmark teams have dubbed themselves as the “Iron Nine.”



### **Chief Yeoman (F) Loretta Perfectus Walsh**

After enlisting on March 17, 1917, Chief Walsh became not only the woman to serve in the Navy and its first female Chief Petty Officer, but also the first woman to serve in a non-nursing capacity in any branch of the armed forces. She served as a Yeoman (F) in the U.S. Naval Reserve during WWI.



The Women Accepted for Volunteer Service (WAVES) played a critical role in naval aviation during WWII, serving as machinists, metalsmiths, and, as pictured here, instructors.





### **Fleet Master Chief Suz Whittman**

Force Master Chief Suz Whittman enlisted in the Navy in August 1985 as a yeoman and became the first woman to be the Pacific Fleet Senior Enlisted Leader in 2015. Master Chief Whittman served aboard the aircraft carriers Nimitz and Dwight D. Eisenhower, at Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 3, the submarine tender Holland, Navy Recruiting District Boston, and multiple other commands. In 2011, she was selected as the Capt. Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award recipient and the Navy League's Capt. Winifred Quick Collins Award for Inspirational Leadership.



**Capt. Dianna Wolfson**

Capt. Dianna Wolfson was one of the Navy's initial group of women surface nuclear officers in the 1990s, and then became the only woman to command a public shipyard (Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in 2019). She became the first woman to command Norfolk Naval Shipyard in its 253-history in 2021.



### **Matrice Wright**

Matrice Wright served eight years in the Navy, and was the first African American female flight officer. She was appointed as a White House Fellow in 1997, and now serves on the U.S. Naval Academy Board of Visitors and as Vice President at ManTech International.





### **Chief Yeoman Edna Young**

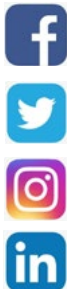
Among the first female enlisted to be sworn into the regular Navy on July 7, 1948, Chief Edna Young was both the first African-American enlisted woman in the regular Navy and its first female African-American Chief Petty Officer.



# Tingey House Display





We want to hear from you as well. If you know a woman who is making a difference in the Navy, send your recommendations to the U.S. Navy CNO social media platforms (linked below). This is a small space, but there's room to grow!



**Navy Women in Ships**  
A Deployment To Equality  
1942-1982

by James L. Lewis, TCM, USN





Let's continue to write the story of Navy Women. Tag **#NavyWomenMakingHistory** with your own stories of service.